STATE:

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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(Re	w, 6-72) NA1	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE					Maryland				
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	INVENTOR	Y - NOMINATION FORM				FOR NPS USE ONLY			$\dashv$		
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The Old Post Office in Cumberland (1902-1904) is an excellent example of Georgian Revival as designed by a "creative eclectic," James K. Taylor, Supervising Architect of the United States Treasury from 1897 to 1912. Rather than the Georgian, or more correctly, Colonial, Revival, as practiced by other architects relying on American examples, the Old Post Office is perhaps closer to the original eighteenth-century English models (City Hall in York, for example). An American version of an English neo-Palladian building, the source for the Old Post Office could probably be easily found in the same architectural pattern books--those by British architects like James Gibbs and Colon Campbell--which inspired eighteenth-century American houses like Mount Airy (Richmond County, Virginia, c. 1765, and innumerable other Maryland and Virginia examples), as well as public buildings like those by Peter Harrison (the Market House, Newport, Rhode Island, c. 1761).

Similar to the central block of a five-part "country house" (Tryon Palace in New Bern, North Carolina, a reconstruction, is a good example of this), the Old Post Office is a simple, three-story rectangular block. The upper two stories are brick raised from a monumental stone base. The three center bays of the symmetrical, five-part facade are defined by four engaged Ionic (Roman) columns, on the second and third levels, and form a pavilion which is topped by a full entablature and a pediment complete with bull's-eye window. This pavilion is quoined as are the corners of the main block. There are rusticated surrounds on each main doorway; splayed lintels, or full entablature (on the pavilion windows); window balustrades (on second level windows); and a roof balustrade.

Somewhat similar in style, materials, etc., to the post office by the same architect in Annapolis, the Old Post Office is indicative of a period when the Federal Government took some care and expense in the design and construction of its buildings. The Old Post Office's exterior integrity should be maintained (and perhaps cleaned) for its attractive and dignified appearance make a stabilizing focal point in this part of downtown Cumberland.

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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
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15th Century	[] 17th Century	[   19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ole and Known)	1902-1904	
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Communications	Military	1.) Theater	
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The Public Safety Building, or Old Post Office, is, according to Allegany Countians, the sole example of late nineteenth, early twentieth century Georgian Revival architecture in the county.

The building, originally the United States Courthouse and Post Office, was built during the tenure of James Knox Taylor (1859-c. 1929) as Supervising Architect of the United States Department of the Treasury, the department responsible for the construction of federal buildings. From 1897 to 1912 while Taylor was Supervising Architect, his office designed approximately three hundred structures. Taylor's buildings, as a rule, are neo-classical or neo-Georgian which echoes the eclectic tone of American architecture of the turn of the twentieth century. Although, perhaps not as well known as his contemporaries, Daniel Burnham or Stanford White, his architectural career merits more attention than it has received. Taylor's appointment as Supervising Architect, the sheer volume of his work for the federal government, his tenure at Massachusetts Institute of Technology as Chairman of the Architecture Department, testify to his rank among the architects of his time. The post office on Church Circle in Annapolis, included within the National Historic Landmark district, another of Taylor's works, reflects the same architectural style as his Cumberland Post Office built in 1902-1904.

An Act of Congress--approved on February 20, 1895--provided for the erection of a federal courthouse and post office in Cumberland. Four years later the federal government, through the office of the Supervising Architect, purchased a site from John H. Holzshu, a Cumberland real estate dealer and Republican politico, for \$20,000. Holzshu's name, along with that of one of his close associates, U. S. Senator George L. Wellington (a Maryland republican), figures prominently in the official correspondence about the purchase of suitable Cumberland property for the post office. Not incidentally, Holzshu was the postmaster for Cumberland under President William McKinley.

Construction began in 1902 after the Maryland legislature had permitted the United States to purchase land in Cumberland and after Congress raised the maximum cost limit from \$75,000 to \$125,000. Opened in mid-1904 the building was the sixth location of the Cumberland post office department since the first one which was opened in a log building in 1795.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9.	MAJOR	BIBLIO	RAPHIC	AL RE	FERENCE	<u>s</u>								
	Recorders: Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust, 2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland, March 1971. William D. Morgan, Maryland Historical Trust, April 1971.													
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	evaluated according to the c-iteria and procedures set													
	forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:							rvation						
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Maryland COUNTY: Allegany

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Thomas History of Western Maryland-Vol.1, p.101 125, 126, 127 Court records Newspaper account (Guardian) 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES 0 DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY R LONGITUDE LATITUDE LONGITUDE CORNER LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds Degrees Minutes Seconds Degrees Minutes Seconds Degrees Minutes Seconds 0 0 NW NE 0 0 SE 0 SW LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES CODE COOE COUNTY CODE STATE: COUNTY: COOE CODE COUNTY: STATE: CODE CODE COUNTY: STATE: 11. FORM PREPARED BY NAME AND TITLE: Helen E. Hinkle, Chairman; Hazel G. Hansrote, Co-chairman MarylandHistorical Trust Committee of Allegany Co. 3/20/71 STREET AND NUMBER 519 Hill Top Drive CODE STATE 21502 Maryland Cumberland NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na-I hereby certify that this property is included in the tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law National Register. 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation level of significance of this nomination is: National State Local 🔲 Name ATTEST: Title Keeper of The National Register

Date

Form 10-301 (Dec. 1968)

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TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

2. North arrow.

1. Property broundories where required.

3. Latitude and longitude reference.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERHO NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

0107840701

MARYLAND

STATE

COUNTY

ALLEGANY

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1.	NAME			
	COMMON: Public Safety - (Polic	e Station	n)	
	AND/OR HISTORIC: (FIRST) Federal C			
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	CITY OR TOWN:			
	Cumberland			
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3,	MAP REFERENCE			
	SOURCE:			
	City Map - Sept. 1910			
	SCALE:			
	DATE: 1910			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

STATE MARYLAND COUNTY ALLEGANY FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER OATE

(Type all entries - attach to	or enclose with photogra	apn)	
I. NAME		-	
common: Public Safety -	(Police Statio	n)	
AND/OR HISTORIC: (FIRST) FEL	ERAL COURT & P	ost Office Buil	ding
2. LOCATION			
Frederick at North Li	berty Streets		
Cumberland			
STATE:	CODE COL	IN TY:	CODE
Maryland	21502	Allegany	21502
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Triplett's S	tudio		
DATE OF PHOTO: Not. 1970			
NEGATIVE FILEO AT:			
Triplett's	Studio		
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			

Public Safety Building faces North. - Front view of picture

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Allegany TOWN Cumberland VICINITY Square

NO. OF STORIES

Town

STREET NO. Liberty at Frederick Street ORIGINAL OWNER Thomas Beall of Sam. ORIGINAL USE Log home-torn down PRESENT OWNER City of Cumberland PRESENT USE Police building WALL CONSTRUCTION

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INVENTORY

2. NAME U.S. Postoffice and Federal Court Building DATE OR PERIOD 1902/1904 STYLE ARCHITECT

BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC Yes

1785 -- On this site Thomas Beall of Samuel, founder of Cumberland Maryland built a log house. Still standing 1878. .. Lowdermilk Hist. p.284.

1795 -- Jan. 1 -- Cumberland established as POST TOWN and first postoffice opened in a LOG HOUSE on MECHANIC STREET.

1842 -- Nov. 1 -- Mail increase following arrival of B & O Railroad.

1844 -- Postmaster appointment made by President of the U.S. instead of Postmaster General as before.

1849 -- May 9, Postoffice moved to one story frame building on Baltimore Street (Reynolds block).

1853 -- Postoffice moved to 93 Baltimore Street in Farrell building.

1861 -- Nov.1, P.O. Money order system instituted.

1869 -- May 13, Postoffice moved to Centre Street between Baltimore and Frederick.

1875 -- Postoffice moved to McCleave Building.

1887 -- City Delivery started.

1902 -- Cornerstone laid for FIRST FEDERAL POSTOFFICE AND FEDERAL COURT BUILDING, northwest corner Liberty at Frederick Street.

1904 -- Aug. 14 -- Building completed. 1911 -- Postal Savings service begun.

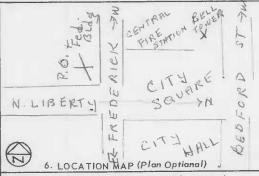
1913--Jan.l. PARCEL POST SYSTEM installed. DAVID J. LEWIS. Congress man of Allegany County, Md. FATHER of the PARCEL POST SYSTEM.

1919 -- Jan. 1, War, Saving and Thrift Stamps introduced.

.... Thomas History of W. Md. Vol.1, p.101,125,126,127

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Poor

Exterior V. Good



3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

Research -- Helen S. Hinkle " Hazel G. Hansrote.

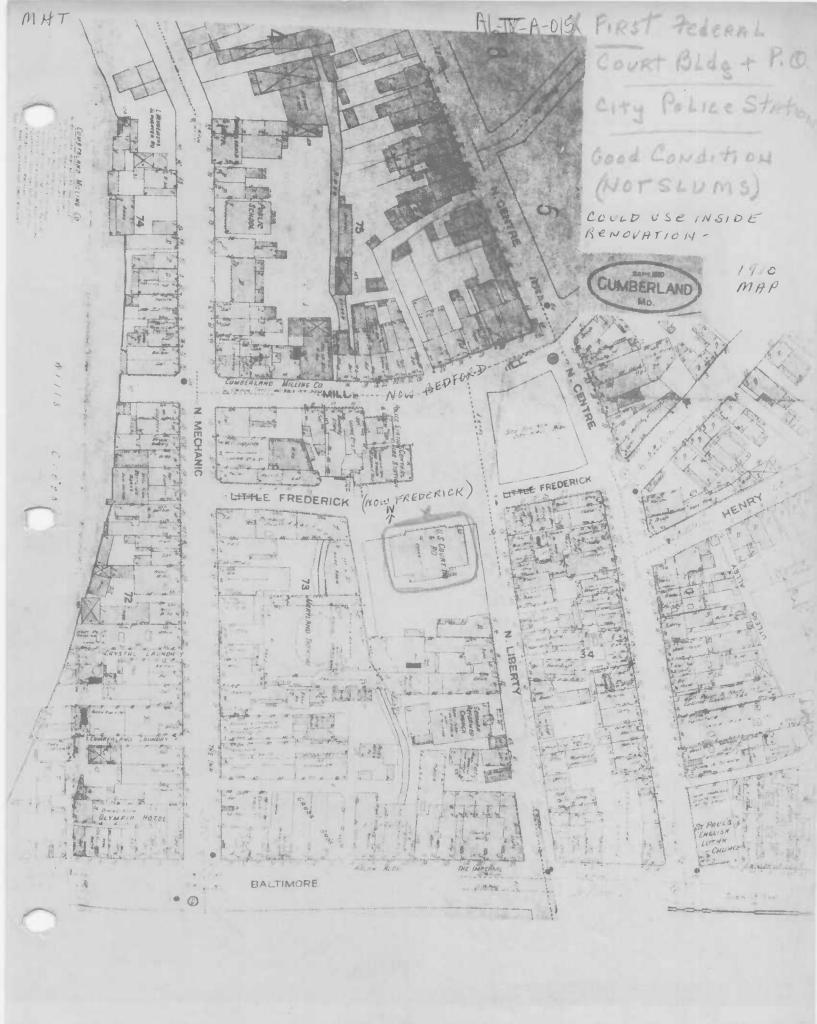
Pictures -- by both.

7. PHOTOGRAPH

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Hazel Groves Hansrote, Chairman Maryland Historical Trust Sec. Preservation Society

DATE OF RECORD Oct.9, 1970

SIZE SAME SHEET OF SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTO PHS MAY BE ADDED ON





The Post office Bldg, Campeland

Pablic Sifty Bldg.

Al-14-15

AL-63.

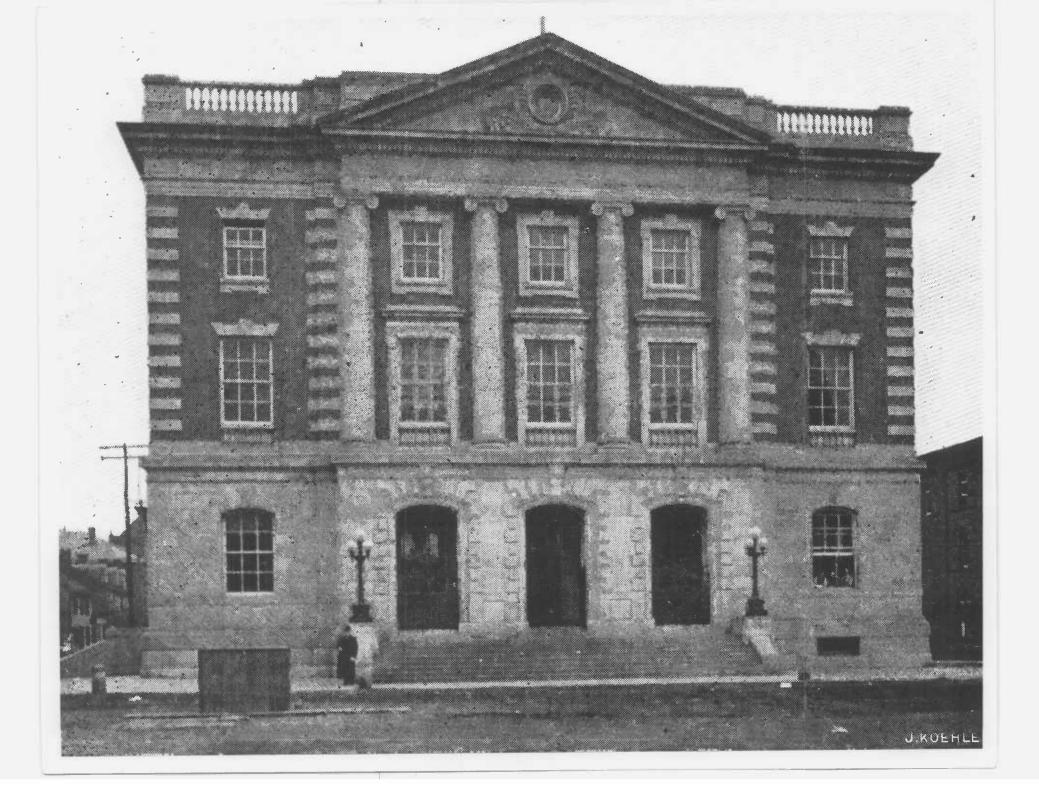
MD. HISTORICAL TRUST BOX 1704 ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

ORLANDO RIDOUT I - 1/16/71



OLD U.S. Post office Blds, Cambelland

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST BOX 1704 ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404



Old Post Office Building, Cumberland, and,

AL- = 63

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST 80X 1704 ANNAPOUE, MD. 21404

Herman J. Miller, Cumberlant.